

Education: Rhetoric vs. Reality

This week, as the new school year got underway, President Bush did several events focusing on education, including Saturday's radio address and events in Tennessee and Florida. These photo-ops, however, cannot obscure the record of broken education promises by the GOP.

President Bush Said:	Reality
“While we're demanding excellence from schools, we're also giving them extra resources to succeed.” (Radio Address, 9/6/2003)	This year, the President's budget underfunds the landmark No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) by \$9.7 billion, and the House education spending bill shortchanges these education promises by \$8 billion. The GOP are breaking these education funding promises at a time when states face new NCLB mandates and have been forced to look at cutting education in order to balance their budgets during this economic downturn.
“With the No Child Left Behind Act, we have committed the nation to higher standards for every single public school. <u>And we've committed the resources to help the students achieve those standards.</u> ” (1/8/03)	The President's budget and the House education spending bill deny 2.2 million children help with the basics of reading and math, compared to the amount promised in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).
“Schools are getting the federal resources and help they need to improve.” (Radio Address, 9/6/2003) “After-school programs keep kids safe, help working families, and improve academic achievements.” (Bush proclamation, 10/4/02)	Breaking promises made in the NCLB, the House education spending bill denies one million children access to after-school programs, important to their education and safety, and the President's budget cut after-school programs for an additional 525,000 children beyond that.
“Under the No Child Left Behind Act, every student in this country will be held to high standards, and every school will be held accountable for results. Teachers will get the training they need to help their students achieve... And together we will bring the promise of quality education to every child in America. <u>Part of the answer is funding, and we are meeting our obligations here in Washington, D.C.</u> ” (6/10/2003)	The House GOP education spending bill falls \$350 million short of the \$3.3 billion promised (in real terms) in NCLB to states for improving teacher quality. As a result, approximately 54,000 fewer teachers will receive high quality, federally-supported professional development than was promised. The Bush budget for FY 2004 would deny teacher training to 35,000 teachers beyond that.

